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SUBJECT: Power Cost of Electrolytic Hydrogen Peroxide/
Complexity of Process

REF: Preliminary Minutes 24 Oct 52 Meeting of BSAP

1. In Par 10 of the above reference, the statement is made that the cost of electrolytic power per pound of hydrogen peroxide is the same as for aluminum. Perry "Chemical Engineering Handbook", Page 2400, gives the energy consumption of aluminum at 10 to 12 KWH per pound. For hydrogen peroxide on a 100% basis the corresponding figure is approximately 6.0 KWH per pound. Since power is the largest single factor in the cost of the manufacture of both products, the difference is substantial.

2. The manufacture of hydrogen peroxide is a complicated process requiring high grade technical supervision for continuous and satisfactory results. The principal difference between the manufacture of hydrogen peroxide and cortisone is in the number of steps involved rather than in the complexity of the steps. The sulphuric acid and ammonium persulphate processes require three steps, namely electrolysis, hydrolysis, and concentration, compared to the numerous steps for cortisone. The potassium persulphate process involves an extra step.

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